

A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF HALYINE PENTATOMID FROM ARGENTINA

(HETEROPTERA: PENTATOMIDAE)

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In a small collection of pentatomids recently loaned me for study by my good friend, Professor Belindo A. Torres, of the La Plata Museum, Argentina, the following interesting new genus and species appeared. It differs from the standard New World halyines in one or two minor respects but is included in the tribe Halyini due to the composition of its male genitalia and conformity to the requirements of the tribe in most other respects.

Marghita, new genus

Ovate; moderately large, 15.0 mm. long; subdepressed above, distinctly convex beneath.

Head, excluding eyes, suboval, flattish, porrect, very feebly exerted, slightly shorter than the median length of pronotum, and about three-fourths as wide between the eyes as long; anteocular margins very feebly sinuate, then gradually convergent to a moderately rounded, incised apex; juga longer than the tylus, their apices narrowly rounded and separated from one another; eyes subglobular, large, protuberant, but not pedunculate; ocelli placed in a line drawn across the posterior margins of the eyes, and more than twice as far apart as distant from the eyes. Antennal tubercles prominent and visible from above; antennae five-segmented, reaching the middle of scutellum, segment I exceeding the apex of the head by about half its segmental length; segment III longer than segment II.

Pronotum hexagonal, more than twice as wide as long, the anterior portion midly declivous; anterior margin slightly wider than the head through the eyes, and less than half the length of the transhumeral diameter, moderately excavated centrally, then truncate behind the eyes and ending laterally in an acute, oblique denticle; antero-lateral margins very narrowly carinate and vaguely subreflexed, very shallowly sinuate at the middle; humeral angles rectilinear, subprominent, but not produced. Scutellum reaching the fifth abdominal tergite, about one-third longer than wide at its base, frena surpassing the middle, the post frenal lobe about five-eighths the length of the prefrenal portion, postfrenal margins gradually converging, the apex obtusely, subangularly rounded, the extreme lateral margins barely reflexed. Hemelytra reaching the apex of abdomen, corium longer than scutellum, veins of membranes simple or sometimes bifurcate. Connexivum moderately exposed, segmental apical angles rectilinear and barely produced.

Bucculae well developed, parallel, very gradually increasing in height posteriorly, and ending in line with the posterior margins of the eyes. Rostrum arising in line with the antennal tubercles, attaining the basal abdominal sternite, segment I not exceeding the bucculae, i. e. not reaching the prosternum as is common in numerous New World halyines; segment II distinctly shorter than segments III and IV com-

bined. Mesosternum mildly convex with a percurrent, thin, low, median raised line or subcarina. Metasternum hexagonal the anterior and posterior margins a little shorter than the lateral margins, weakly impressed centrally and provided with a low, median, thin, raised line or subcarina contiguous with the one on the mesosternum. Mesocoxae and metacoxae mutually equidistant. Tibiae shallowly planosulcate; terminal segment of posterior tarsi feebly depressed above, this sometimes not very clearly defined. Abdomen quite convex, median portion of basal segment tumid but not in the form of a tubercle; trichobothria transversely paired and lying laterad of an imaginary longitudinal line joining the row of spiracles on each side; no median abdominal furrow evident. Basal margins of the terminal abdominal sternites in both sexes broadly, arcuately rounded.

Basal plates of female genitalia transversely triangular.

Pygofer large, ovate-globular, its ventral apical margins strongly reflexed, the submarginal surface of the capsule almost vertical in position. Details of the morphology of the pygofer are given under the species heading.

Type species *Marghita crepuscula*, new genus, new species.

***Marghita crepuscula*, new species**

Ovate; moderately large, averaging 15.0 mm. long. 8.5 mm. wide across the humeri, and 9.0 mm. wide across the greatest abdominal diameter. Above matte, sordid yellowish fulvous, very densely overlain with coarser piceous, and finer ferruginous punctures, producing an overall medium brown, stippled appearance; beneath matte, much paler with more sparsely distributed fuscous and ferruginous punctures.

Head three-fourths the median length of pronotum, and about one-fourth shorter than wide through the eyes; densely nigropunctate; juga longer than the tylus by about the width of one jugum there, not connivent; eyes fuscous; ocelli light red, about two and one-half times as far apart as distant from the eyes. Antennae setose, brownish fulvous, the basal three segments lightly infuscated, the basal portion of the terminal segment sometimes narrowly pale; segmental ratios: 39/30/40/50/50, i. e. segment II equal to segment I, shorter than segment III.

Pronotum two and one-half times as wide as long medially, the surface rather evenly convex but somewhat roughish, the coarser fuscous punctures interspersed with innumerable extremely fine reddish-ferruginous ones, the fuscous ones somewhat irregularly distributed; a percurrent pale median line evident; anterior apical denticles flavescent and directed slightly anteriorly. Scutellum vaguely transversely rugulose with a pale median line on the basal half, contiguous with the one on the pronotum; a small median yellow spot on the basal margin; punctures of two sizes, the smaller paler ones more abundant; the lateral margins of the apex very narrowly subreflexed, piceous and glabrous. Hemelytra very evenly punctured, a small ivory discal spot present; free apical margin of the corium very vaguely sinuate, essentially straight, its external apical angle subacutely rounded and slightly produced posteriorly; membranes dull smoky yellow, veins light brown, subparallel, one or two of them sometimes bifurcate. Connexivum brownish-fulvous, very densely fuscopunctate; segmental apical angles rectilinear to subobtuse, barely produced.

Venter yellowish, much paler than dorsum, less densely punctured. Thoracic pleura with a vague, broad, cloud-like band of denser fuscous punctures extending longitudinally along each side, about midway between the lateral margins and the

midline; other punctures on the pleura more loosely distributed, those on the abdomen finer and for the most part reddish-ferruginous; a median row of irregular fuscous spots on the abdominal disc; sometimes there is a single transverse row of small fuscous dots along the posterior margin of each abdominal segment. Mesosternum infuscated, punctured, the median subcarina black. Metasternum flavescens, slightly thickish, the central impressed area and the subcarina black. Legs sordid yellowish fulvous, femora and tibiae densely blotched with small reddish fulvous spots. Ostiolar peritreme, short, digitiform, almost auricular, ending abruptly within the basal third of the metapleuron. Rostrum infuscated, basal segment and portion of segment II sometimes flavescens or pale; segment ratios: 25/45/60/38, i. e. segment II three-fourths the length of segment III, less than half the length of segments III and IV combined, segment IV distinctly shorter than segment III. Spiracles piceous.

Basal plates of female genitalia subtriangular, about one-half again as wide as long, their inner margins contiguous, their apical margins very shallowly sinuate.

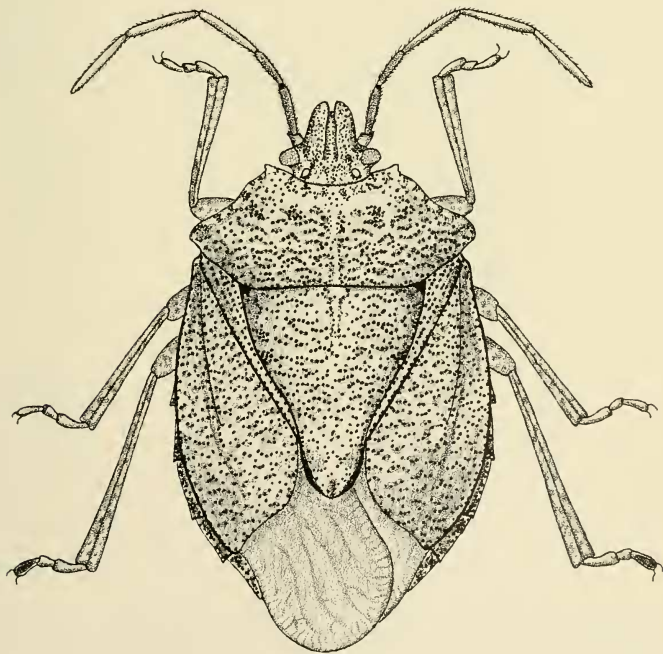


Figure 1. *Marghita crepuscula* new genus, new species; male.

their internal apical angles obtusely rounded; median plate subpentagonal; apical plates elongate oblong, subparallel, well separated, their apices not exceeding the abdominal margin.

Pygofer stout, ovate-globular, about half again as long as wide; contents of genital cup compacted; dorsal border of capsule arcuately sinuate; lateral apices of capsule stubby, obtuse, each provided with an incurved, triangular brush of long, densely matted hairs on its extreme apex, and a large, robust, slightly curved antrorsely directed acute cusp arising from its superior surface, the axes of the two cusps slightly convergent, and each cusp lies appressed to its adjacent paramere; ventral apical margin strongly reflexed, deeply truncately sinuate centrally, the submarginal face almost vertical in position, bilaterally impressed, provided with a low median carina; proctiger large, strongly declivous beyond its middle, the basal half horizontal, subquadrangular in outline, slightly convex, glabrous, and provided with a small, stubby tubercle on each side at the region of the flexure, the declivous apical portion convex, obtusely subectiform in contour and densely clothed in long silvery hairs; paramere (fig. 3) placed vertically, appearing as if squeezed between the proctiger and lateral wall of capsule, basal disc (*basis parameri*) suborbicular, vertical arm short, stout, head compressed, longitudinally elliptical with a prominent notch on anterior margin, the lobe above the notch acutely triangular, the one below it stubby, subconical, nigropunctate and provided with long setae, posterior margin obtusely rounded, slightly thickened, dorsal margin (in lateral aspect) somewhat sigmoid; phallosome of the aedeagus ovate cylindrical, provided with a pair of posteriorly

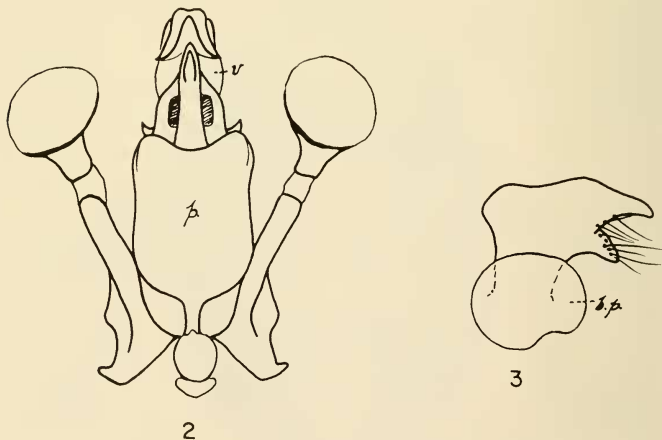


Figure 2. *Marghita crepuscula*, aedeagus, dorsal aspect. Figure 3. *Marghita crepuscula*, right paramere, lateral aspect. p: phallosome; v: vesica; b.p.: basis parameri.

directed dorsal connectives to which are appended prominent *capitate processes*, vesica complex in design as shown in figure 2, without apparent conjunctival membranes and thus not retractile into the phallosome; treatments with potassium hydroxide and acetic acid have failed to produce any evidence of such membranes of the phallus.

Described from six specimens.

Holotype: Male: 15.0 mm. long; 8.5 mm. wide across the humeri. Aristobulo del Valle, Misiones, Argentina. December 1, 1957. M. Biraben, collector. Deposited in the La Plata Museum, Argentina.

Allotype: Female: Same data as above. Deposited in the La Plata Museum, Argentina.

Paratypes (4): Three females, one male. Same data as above. One male and one female deposited in the American Museum of Natural History. Two females deposited in the La Plata Museum.

As a new genus and new species this form has, as yet, no close affinities.

The salient halyine characters evident in this genus and species are the large oval head with protuberent globular eyes, the prominent antennal tubercles readily visible from the dorsal aspect, the first antennal segment exceeding the apex of the head, the thin rostrum which originates in line with the antennal tubercles, the pairs of abdominal trichobothria lying laterad of the spiracles (quite characteristic of New World genera, except *Brochymena*), the flattened dorsal surface of the terminal tarsal segment on the hind leg, and the robust male genital segment with its strongly reflexed apical margin and impressed submarginal surface.

The fact that the first rostral segment is confined to the length of the buccular canal and does not reach the prosternum does not necessarily exclude this genus from the tribe Halyini. *Dalpada* Amyot and Serville (an essentially Asiatic genus) shows this same character.

A NOTE ON NERTHRA PRAECIPUA TODD

(HEMIPTERA: GELASTOCORIDAE)

Through the courtesy of Dr. W. E. China of the British Museum (Natural History) I have examined a female specimen from Chile that he treated (1963, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 13, vol. 5, p. 722) as *Nertha n. sp.* The specimen is the second known example of *Nertha praecipua* Todd. The type, also a female, described in 1957, Proc. Ent. Soc. Washington, vol. 59, no. 4, p. 151, fig. 9 from the Drake Collection via the Reed Collection is labeled "Chile." The specimen discussed by China was collected by G. Kuschel on October 10, 1958, at station H. C. 8 (850 ft.), Chepu, Chiloe Is., Chile. The specimen also bears a label, "Secondary Scrub." An exact locality, date and ecological habitat may enable collectors to locate more examples of this interesting species.—E. L. TODD, Falls Church, Va.

PUBLICATION DATE

The date of publication of Vol. 66, No. 3 was October 22, 1964. The date of publication of Vol. 66, No. 4 will be found in Vol. 67, No. 1.